

Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
 - initializing a client device, wherein the client device has an associated identifier;
 - communicating the identifier associated with the client device to a configuration server, wherein the configuration server stores configuration information associated with the client device for communication to the client device;
 - receiving the configuration information at the client device from the configuration server each time the client device is to perform a task which requires application of the configuration information associated with the client device;
 - applying the configuration information to the client device; and
 - receiving video data from the configuration server.
2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising communicating the received video data to a display device.
3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the received data includes audio data.
4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving a request to perform a task from a user of the client device;

requesting additional configuration information associated with the task from the configuration server;

receiving the additional configuration information from the configuration server; and

applying the additional configuration information to the client device.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the identifier is a unique identifier which continues to uniquely identify the client device when the client device is relocated from one household to another household.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the client device is a set top box.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the client device is a display device.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes parental control settings to be implemented by the client device.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the configuration information includes a last channel tuned by the client device.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising discarding the configuration information after applying the configuration information to the client device.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving changes to the configuration information;
applying the received changes to the client device; and
communicating the received changes to the configuration server.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising applying the configuration information to multiple client devices, whereby each of the multiple client devices receives identical configuration information.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
accessing the configuration server that contains configuration information associated with the client device; and
changing the configuration information associated with the client device.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the changes to the configuration information are applied to the client device during subsequent initializations of the client device.

15. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

- receiving an identifier from a client device;
- receiving a request for configuration information associated with the client device from the client device, each time the client device is to perform a task which requires application of the configuration information associated with the client device;
- identifying the requested configuration information associated with the client device based on the received identifier;
- communicating the requested configuration information to the client device; and
- communicating video data to the client device for display on a display device.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising:

- receiving a request for configuration information associated with the client device from another server; and
- communicating the requested configuration information to the other server.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising receiving modified configuration information from the client device.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 further comprising storing the modified configuration information.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 further comprising communicating the modified configuration information to the client device during subsequent requests for configuration information from the client device.

21. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

22. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

receive a request from a user that a client device perform a task;

determine that configuration information associated with the client device is needed to perform the requested task;

request the needed configuration information from a configuration server which stores the configuration information associated with the client device for communication to the client device each time the client device is to perform any task which requires application of the configuration information associated with the client device;

receive the needed configuration information from the configuration server;

apply the needed configuration information;

receive video data from the configuration server; [[and]]

communicate the received video data to a display device; and

discard the needed configuration information after applying the needed configuration information.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 22 wherein the needed information is applied to a plurality of client devices.

25. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 22 wherein the one or more processors further request the same configuration information in response to a subsequent request to perform the same task.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a storage device containing an identifier associated with the apparatus wherein the identifier continues to uniquely identify the apparatus even when the apparatus is relocated from one household to another household;
a communication interface; and
a processor coupled to the storage device and the communication interface, wherein the processor is to communicate a request for configuration information and the identifier to a configuration server via the communication interface, wherein the processor is further to receive configuration information from a configuration server via the communication interface, and wherein the processor is to receive broadcast video data via the communication interface.

27. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 26 wherein the processor is further to process the received video data for display on a display device.

28. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 26 further comprising an audio/video output coupled to the processor and configured to communicate the received video data to a display device coupled to the audio/video output.

29. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 26 further comprising a tuner to tune at least one channel associated with the broadcast video data.